

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4870

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PINT UR  
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE PURSUING THE RUDENKO CASE IN THE UKRAINE AS WELL AS IN MOSCOW. GINZBURG'S WIFE SUCCEEDED IN PLACING A TRANS-ATLANTIC TELEPHONE CALL TO ATTORNEY EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS. SHE WAS TREATED CRUELY BY PRISON OFFICIALS DURING HER LATEST VISIT TO KALUGA. SAKHAROV IS ILL WITH THE FLU; THE AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE AGAINST HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW. A YOUNG MAN NAMED YAKOVLEV, WHO CAME TO MOSCOW TO SEE SAKHAROV, REPORTEDLY WAS STRUCK AND KILLED BY A HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER UNDER PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES. THE RECENTLY-FORMED GROUP TO MONITOR SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE IN THE ARTS IS INACTIVE AND MAY NOT LAST LONG. MOSCOW AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO BUILD A CASE AGAINST ORLOV GROUP MEMBER MAL'VA LANDA. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO WELL-INFORMED HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE RECENTLY QUESTIONED A NUMBER OF COLLEAGUES OF IMPRISONED UKRAINIAN ACTIVIST MIKOLA RUDENKO. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE INTERROGATORS TEND TO ADOPT ONE OF THREE APPROACHES: (A) THEY STATE THAT  
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RUDENKO HAS BEEN PROVED TO BE A SPY; (B) THEY SAY HE IS BASICALLY A DECENT MAN WHO FELL UNDER THE EVIL INFLUENCE OF SAKHAROV, WHO IS CONNECTED WITH "ANTI-SOVIET CENTERS;" OR (C) THEY TAKE THE LINE THAT RUDENKO HAS DECIDED TO COOPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES AND HAS GIVEN THEM A FULL ACCOUNT OF HIS ACTIVITIES. THE PITCH SEEMS TO VARY ACCORDING TO THE AUTHORITIES' ASSESSMENT OF THE PERSON

UNDER QUESTIONING.

3. IN THE UKRAINE, AMONG THOSE QUESTIONED WERE THE WIVES (SVETLICHNAYA AND LISOVAYA) OF IMPRISONED UKRAINIAN ACTIVISTS. THESE WOMEN WERE UNABLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN THEIR UNIVERSITY-LEVEL SPECIALITIES FOLLOWING THE ARREST OF THEIR HUSBANDS SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT MENIAL JOBS TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY WERE QUESTIONED REGARDING THE RUDENKO CASE, THEY BOTH WERE FIRED FROM THEIR PRESENT JOBS AND HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY SORT OF WORK SINCE.

4. MOSCOW-BASED ACTIVISTS T. VELIKANOVA AND V. TURCHIN RECENTLY WERE QUESTIONED ABOUT THE RUDENKO CASE BY AN INVESTIGATOR FROM THE UKRAINE. TURCHIN'S SESSION LASTED THREE HOURS, DURING WHICH HE WAS SHOWN STATEMENTS SIGNED BY RUDENKO CONCERNING THE LATTERS'S CONTACTS WITH TURCHIN. TURCHIN BELIEVES THAT RUDENKO WILL BE FORMALLY TRIED. REGARDING HIS PERSONAL SITUATION, TURCHIN TOLD US APRIL 6 THAT DOSE SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER HARASSMENT CONTINUES BUT HE DID NOT THINK THE AUTHORITIES WERE TRYING TO BUILD A CASE AGAINST HIM IN CONNECTION WITH THE RUDENKO CASE.

5. ALEKSANDR GINZBURG'S WIFE SUCCEEDED IN PLACING A TRANS-ATLANTIC CALL TO ATTORNEY EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS, WHO REPORTEDLY TOLD HJ HE PLANNED TO APPLY FOR A SOVIET VISA SHORTLY. MRS. GINZBURG WAS GIVEN A HARD TIME BY KALUGA PRISON OFFICIALS WHEN SHE ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT CONFIDENTIAL

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THEM WITH HER MONTHLY FOOD PACKAGE FOR HER HUSBAND. THE OFFICIALS REFUSED TO ACCEPT FOOD THAT HE BEEN PURCHASED IN MOSCOW, CLAIMING THAT ITEMS NOT AVAILABLE IN KALUGA COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED. MRS. GINZBURG TOLD US SHE THOUGHT THIS NASTINESS, WHICH HAS NO BASIS IN PRISON REGULATTIONS, PROBABLY MEANT THAT HER HUSBAND WAS STUBBORNLY REFUSING TO COOPERATE WITH HIS INVESTIGATORS.

6. WE ARE TOLD THAT SAKHAROV HAS BEEN INACTIVE LATELY BECAUSE HE IS SUFFERING FROM A BAD CASE OF FLU. INVESTIAGTIO OF THE CASE AGAINST HIS STEP-DAUGHTER (VIOLATION OF LAW REGARDING EMPLOYMENT AND DISPOSITION OF SALARY) DRAGS ON INCONCLUSIVELY.

7. DISSIDENT SOURCES TOLD US OF THE DEATH IN LATE MARCH OF A YOUNG MAN NAMED YAKOVLEV, WHO REPORTEDLY CAME TO MOSCOW WITH HIS MOTHER TO SEE SAKHAROV REGARDING AN INJUSTICE YAKOVLEV SUFFERED AT HIS PLACE OF WORK IN NOVO-SIBIRSK. YAKOVLEV REPORTEDLY DISAPPEARED ON

MARCH 25; AFTER AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH, HIS MOTHER FOUND HIS BODY AT A MORGUE IN AN OUT-OF-THE-WAY MOSCOW SUBURB. SHE WAS TOLD THAT HER SON WAS KILLED BY A HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER IN CENTRAL MOSCOW. THE MOTHER SUSPECTS FOUL PLAY, AS DO SEVERAL OF OUR SOURCES, ALTHOUGH THE LATTER NOTE THAT THERE IS NO WAY TO KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THE YOUNG MAN.

8. THE UNOFFICIAL GROUP TO MONITOR SOVIET PERFORMANCE IN THE ARTS IS INACTIVE AND MAY SOON FALL APART. ACCORDING TO MEMBER AND DISSIDENT ARTIST YOSIF KIBLITSKIY, MOST

OF THE MEMBERS LEFT MOSCOW PRIOR TO THE VANCE VISIT AND HAVE NOT YET RETURNED. OSKAR RABIN IS IN MOSCOW BUT REPORTEDLY IS KEEPING VERY QUIET. ANOTHER MEMBER, ACTOR AMARANTOV, HAS DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT AND WILL NOT EVEN ANSWER TELEPHONE CALLS. KIBLITSKIY IS FOLLOWED OCCASIONALL, PARTIC-  
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ULARLY AFTER HE TALKS ON THE TELEPHONE WITH LEADING DISSIDENTS. KIBLITSKIY SEEMS DISCOURAGED AND PERHAPS FEELS THAT HIS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT WAS ILL-ADVISED. ONE APPARENT EFFECT OF HIS INVOLVEMENT WAS TO DIMINISH HIS CHANCES OF OBTAINING A NEW STUDIO: HIS RECENT INQUIRIES REPORTEDLY WERE MET WITH INSULTS AND ABUSE.

9. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FORMER HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, AND NOW "REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORLOV GROUP ABROAD," LYUDA ALEKSEYEVA HAS ARRANGED FOR BRITISH LAWYER AND MP MCDONALD TO REPRESENT YURIY ORLOV.

10. FINALLY, THE CASE AGAINST ORLOV GROUP MEMBER MAL'VA LANDA (CAUSING A FIRE IN HER APARTMENT) IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION. WE UNDERSTAND SHE HAS NO INTENTION OF REDUCING HER ACTIVITIES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT, EVEN THOUGH SHE IS CONVINCED THE AUTHORITIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO THREATEN HER WITH THE PROSPECT OF A TRIAL IN WHICH SHE CERTAINLY WOULD BE FOUND GUILTY OF NEGLIGENCE.  
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